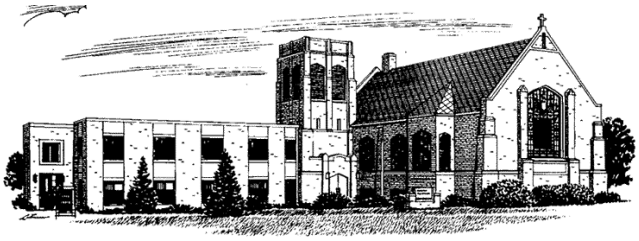


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

August 2019

With regularity we speak of Christ coming in the gifts of bread and wine, water and word. A little less often we speak of Christ's coming through the community. Yet, his presence in and through the community is no less important or powerful.

I am grateful for this gift as we lift each other up and share one another's burdens. I am grateful for this gift as we celebrate life's highs.

It is in community that we encourage and challenge one another and receive forgiveness. In community we laugh, and we play, and we sort out life and faith's complexities together. In community we ponder, and we proclaim, we listen, and we take risks. We discern and we act boldly.

I am grateful for all these times as we gather as the body of Christ in community and as we scatter to be in the community. In both we *joyfully share God's love for all!!!* It is a love that takes us to the cross and brings us to life.

I am grateful for you, God's beloved community.

Pastor Joan

Post Council Mtg Field Trip – Light House Tour
https://stjoelighthousetours.wordpress.com/

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Megan Savage Financial Secretary
Email: financial@saronlutheran.org
Emily Gaul, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

All are welcome!

We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace; **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville.

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Financial Secretary: Megan Savage
Call the office for more information.
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in August 2019.

Aug. 1 – Bradley Gorman
2 - Joseph Ulrey
3 - Tim Standen
Ted Dosch
4 – Linda Huff
5 - Brian Hohman
Emma Dipert
7 - Ed Standen
9 - Benjamin Baumgartner
Mary Smart
14 - Maggie Hammer
15 –David Bailey
16 - Tedd Gorman
20 – Diana Dubman
22 - Irma Gorman
23 – Andrew Huff
24 – Rebecca (Fortenbacher) Sherry
Paula Risetter
27 - Pamela Olson
Elizabeth Schmuhl

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members In August 2019.

Aug. 1 – Matthew and Laurel Gacek
3 - David and Dana Riley
6 - Jerry and Ruth Stelling
7 – Brad and Marilyn Frey
Victor and Nicole Coar
8 - Erik and Brittany (Ondraka) Hansen
14 - Donald and Eloise Moely
15 – John and T. J. Koehler
20 – David and Shelly Stankiewicz
24 – Jack and Cheryl Houser

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round" If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

Congratulations!

Congratulations and God's blessings to Gretchen (Oleson) and JJ Skudlarczyk upon their marriage at Saron on June 29.

Congratulations!

We offer our congratulations to Dale Lucy who assumes the role of general manager, plant operations at Palisades Nuclear Plant in August.

FORTIFY & fly

Last month, we talked about the exciting arrival of a shiny, new Automated External Defibrillator. This month, we can celebrate actually knowing how to use it! Thirteen individuals were trained and are now AED/CPR certified. Many thanks to David Lundgren for teaching the course. Saron being a "safe place" has taken on a whole additional meaning! The other big Fortify & Fly news is the $4,000 check we were able to gift to the Readiness Center as one of our periodic outreach tithes. See the note from the Readiness center below. They are also looking forward to providing the congregation with service opportunities in the future so we can better know this inspiring organization.

As of the end of June, we had collected $155,157.69 towards our 3 year pledge total of $371,165. We are now above and beyond our 2019 estimated collections of $154,005. We will soon see if the congregation has simply fulfilled their 2019 Fortify & Fly commitment early in the year or if this trend will continue and we will begin to collect amounts we estimated for future years. Regardless of the answer, it is clear God is providing!

Readiness Center Thank You

Thank you for your generosity to the Readiness Center. With your gift to our program for children and their families we will continue the legacy of Sister Paulita as she retires from full-time ministry. We are looking forward to our three-week summer program beginning in July. This year we are working with our K-5th grade students around the theme of "non-violence through the arts." The children will have the opportunity to work with professional artists and dancers to explore new ways to communicate and express themselves. We are grateful for your prayerful support, please know of our prayers for your church family as well.

Sincerely,
Martha Thieneman

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday, Aug. 4 –
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, Aug. 11 –
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, Aug. 18 –
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29—12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Sunday, Aug. 25 -
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 58:9b-1
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Nursery News
For every worship service, we need a volunteer in addition to our paid childcare worker. Volunteer during the service time you attend or attend one service and volunteer at the other. Our members have a variety of availability and we work around schedules. Please let Marilyn Lucy know you are interested.

BEACH WORSHIP
Once again we are offering an evening worship experience at Lions Park – in the pavilion closest to the water treatment plant. The last one will be August 14. Hot dogs provided; bring a dish to pass as you are able. Supper at 6 p.m. and worship at 7 p.m.

PRAYER GROUP
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR
The 2019 flower calendar is posted. Cost: $25.00/vase. This is an opportunity for you to give flowers in honor or memory of someone. The church orders the flowers (unless you indicate otherwise) and you can take the flowers home after 2nd service.

Youth
Are you in grades 6-12? We hope you can join us. For more info, contact Scott at scottgaspari@outlook.com or (Cell) 847-373-8825.

Youth Group Jenga Game – I wonder who won!

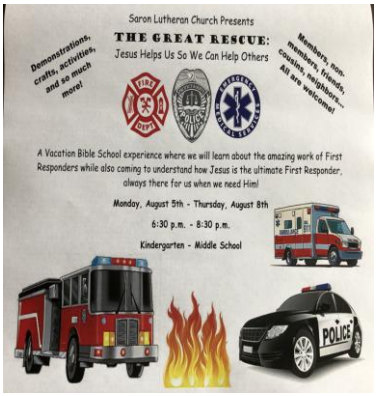
Learning
book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Beach Study
This summer we will join at Lions Park Beach for Bible study on Tuesdays at 8:30 am. Wear your jacket, bring a cup of coffee (if desired), and we will study the Scripture for the following Sunday and join in prayer. The conversation usually lasts 45 min to an hour.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Saron Learning Committee will facilitate "The Great Rescue, Jesus helps us so we can help others," a vacation bible school experience where we will learn about the amazing work of First Responders while also coming to understand how Jesus is the ultimate First Responder. Vacation Bible School will be Aug 5 – 8, 2019 from 6:30 to 8:30 in the evening. Reservations for children ages Kindergarten – Middle School (younger ages can be discussed) going on now by contacting Kristen Harper, Amanda Bradley or the church office at 269-983-1273.


Saron Lutheran Church Presents
THE GREAT RESCUE:
Jesus Helps Us So We Can Help Others
Demonstrations, crafts, activities, and so much more!
Members, non-members, friends, coastie neighbors... All are welcome!
A Vacation Bible School experience where we will learn about the amazing work of First Responders while also coming to understand how Jesus is the ultimate First Responder, always there for us when we need Him!
Monday, August 5th - Thursday, August 8th
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Kindergarten - Middle School
POLICE

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

Saron Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 6:00pm at the church then at 7:00pm we adjourn and all are invited to join in for something to eat and/or drink at Azul Tequila. If you have questions, feel free to contact Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or bobkynast@gmail.com.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

There will be Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. August 3, at the Galley Grill.

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Here is the list of new reads for our 2019-2020 discussion season:

October 6, 2019 "Where the Crawdads Sing," by Delia Owens

November 3, 2019 "Before We Were Yours," by Lisa Wingate

December 1, 2019 "Once Upon a River," by Diane Setterfield

February 9, 2020 (2nd Sunday) "Killers of the Flower Moon", by David Grann

March 1, 2020 "The Story of Arthur Truluv," by Elizabeth Berg

April 5, 2020 "Year of Wonders; A Novel of the Plague," by Geraldine Brooks

May 3, 2020 "The Wife," by Meg Wolitzer

There are book marks with all this information available in the Narthex. Thanks to Marilyn Lucy for making them to share. Have a wonderful summer of good, relaxing reading. Our group will come together again in October. If you love to read, we would love to have you join us. Questions? Contact Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"Dinosaurs did not read. Look what happened to them." (Unknown)

Women of the ELCA.

Deborah Circle - **Will not meet in August**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the church lounge, hosted by Janet Larson. The study leader will be Denise Cook.

Dorcas Circle goes visiting

A Day Trip to Meijer Gardens

Plan to join the fun on a bus trip to Meijer Gardens on Thursday, August 22, leaving Saron at 8:30 am and returning at 6 pm! $55/person which includes transportation via Cardinal Bus, snacks on the bus, admission to the Gardens, and a guided tour by Trolley. Lunch is on your own at the Gardens. **Sponsored by W/ELCA -- Deborah Circle and open to both men and women**; proceeds will be divided between Samaritas and the Women's Safe Shelter in Benton Harbor. Purchase a seat through Carol Hafer, Sally Schmuhl or Mary Kynast. 48 seats available.

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

You Are Invited - Legacy Presentation!

Sunday, September 15

What plans do you have for your legacy? What do you want to leave to your family? What do you want to give to your church? What is the best way to give to ministries you love?

Our church has a resource available for you as you explore these questions. Patricia Hartig, Regional Gift Planner from the ELCA Foundation serves our congregation and our Synod. Pat helps families explore their passions to create a charitable estate plan that leaves a legacy including an inheritance for family as well as supporting the ministries and charities that mean the most to you. She also helps congregations wisely use and manage these gifts. **Pat, an estate planning attorney, will be with us to do a presentation after our worship service on Sunday, September 15**.

You are encouraged to attend this informational presentation centered on your call to leave a legacy blessing both your family and ministry.

This is a **free service** provided to our congregation by the ELCA Foundation. You can contact Pat Hartig at 734-558-7495 or e-mail at patricia.hartig@elca.org to schedule a free planned giving appointment where you will receive information on how to save taxes and be an eternal steward.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, e-mail Matt Bradley to receive the account number for which the shares will be transferred to. Once the transaction has been completed, e-mail Matt Bradley the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the date of the transfer. This allows the transaction to be completed and ensures it is included on your giving statement. Thanks! Matt Bradley, treasurer

Are you a Thrivent member?

If you are, you have an opportunity to help with the funding of a work project, as coordinated through our Outreach or Facilities teams. Please let Janet Oleson or Pastor know if you are a member, have interest or questions.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN

Saron's members, on June 27, helped to continue our mission of "God"s Work, Our Hands" by serving 134 meals to guests at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen. Along with companionship and a ham dinner, guests are helped with the use of computers, phones, faxing, & health screenings. The months meal was prepared by Mary Alice & Ed Brunner, Mary & Bob Kynast, Kathy Cowall, Deb Standen, & Ruth Ball. Cookies were baked by Darlene Kiessel, Kris Weber, & Keith Stevens. Thanks to all who help by supporting the Soup Kitchen with your time, gifts & prayers.

Large cans of fruit are always needed at the Soup Kitchen & can be dropped off anytime at the church. Any questions or to volunteer or provide cookies please contact Kathie Bradley at 427-7083.

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE

A task force at Saron has been looking at issues of welcome and inclusivity and how to best live into our mission of "joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!" Serving on the task force are Kati and Nick Hooper, Laurel Gacek, Laura Hicks, and Pastor. Contact any of these folks if you would like to know more.

JULY'S MISSION MOMENT

Each month we will be featuring a ministry of Saron – either a direct ministry, or one that is ours as a member of the ELCA.

This month we feature Interfaith Action's *Great Water Initiative.* It's focus is preserving the resource of the Great Lakes by advocating for open access to safe water for drinking and recreational activities.

In August they are sponsoring both a book discussion of *Death and Life of the Great Lakes, a Michigan Notable Book and a New York Times best seller,* and a cleanup of OxCreek as part of the National River Cleanup. The Ox Creek Clean Up will take place on Saturday, August 24 at Hall Park in Benton Harbor from 9:30 am to 12:00 p.m. You can learn more about the clean up and register to volunteer at *https://www.eventbrite.com/o/interfaith-action-of-sw-michigan-23358571386*

Book Read Info *https://swmichinterfaith.org/great-waters-great-read-great-action*

For more information, contact Bob Kynast or check out the Interfaith Action website at *https://swmichinterfaith.org/*

TINY HOUSES FOR BIG CHANGE

Thank You to all who made contributions to the "Tiny Houses"project. Gifts through Saron totaled - $516.08.

School Supplies

We will once again be collecting school supplies starting Sunday, August 4 through Sunday, September 8. The supplies will be donated to the Eau Claire Public Schools. As many stores are beginning their Back-To-School sales, now is a good time to stock up. Thank you!

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP VIDEO

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. In addition, portions of our worship are being recorded for the purpose of sharing with those who are not able to attend worship, particularly those who are home bound. If you have questions, or prefer your picture not to appear on a video, please contact Aaron Becker (at the camera) or Pastor.

Facilities

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED

Lawn mowers needed for the summer. Volunteers to mow the yards instead of hiring that work out saved the church an estimated **$1,000.00+** in expenses last year. Please sign up to help the church save money on the lawn mowing and keep our grounds looking good. The church has its own lawn mower. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions please see or notify Bill Oleson.

Council News

Saron's Council Members – 2019

Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – President
Joe Ulrey (313-718-2563) – Vice President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Treasurer
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Secretary
+++
Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – Worship
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities
Brandon Burrow – Youth
Troy Burrow – Youth
Don Hafer (269-470-2255) - Support
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Hospitality
Deanna Deaton (429-9086) - Hospitality
Kristen Harper (277-9277) – Learning, Youth
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach
Joe Ulrey (313-718-2563) – Fortify and Fly
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor

Attendance Record	
06/30/2019	*62*
07/07/2019	*88*
07/14/2019	*64*
7/21/2019	*69*

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

AUGUST 2019

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The benefits of being a church on Main Street – a banner for all to see….

and living in a community on the lake, where we can do outdoor worship with a lifesaver theme. (You need to ask someone who was there.)

Saron
August Volunteer Schedule

	August 4 ***Eighth Sunday of Pentecost***	***August 11*** ***Ninth Sunday of Pentecost***	***August 18*** ***Tenth Sunday of Pentecost***	***August 25*** ***Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost***
	9:30	***9:30***	***9:30***	***9:30***
Assisting minister	Connie Slater	Denise Cook	Scott Kohs	Bob Deaton
Reader/ Intinction	Lindsay Gaspari	Sally Schmuhl	Darlene Kiessel	Judi Huff
Ushers	Keith Stevens and Jim Manore	Bob & Mary Kynast	Brad and Marilyn Frey	Eric and Deb Standen
Acolytes	Molly Becker	Eric and Troy Burrow	Grant Gacek	Mia and Alaina Bradley
Nursery Assistant	Karen Hinckley	Allison Rood	Janet Larson	Meredith Gacek
Bldg. close	Dave & Kathie Bradley	Bob and Mary Kynast	Dennis and Colleen Lundgren	Brad and Marilyn Frey
Snacks		Marilyn Lucy		
Flowers	Laura Kroening granddaughter Lori's birthday Aug. 13th.	Brad & Marilyn Frey 37th anniversary Aug. 7th.	Allison Rood birthday	Credo Candle by Pat Breyen
Mowing	Weekend of Aug. 1,2,3 Jim Manore	Weekend of Aug. 8,9,10 Burrow family	Weekend of Aug. 15,16,17 Jerry Hanes	Weekend of Aug. 22,23,24 Brad Frey

August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	**2**	3 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast
4 Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Children's Message	**5** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School starts	**6** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. VBS	**7** 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:30 p.m Vacation Bible School	**8** 6:30 p.m Vacation Bible School last night	**9**	10
11 Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Children's Message	**12** Newsletter Articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 6:00 p.m. Support Comm. Meeting	**13** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**14** 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m.Picnic 7:00 p.m. Worship at Lions Park	**15**	**16**	17
18 Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Children's Message	**19** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	***20*** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 4:00 pm Vasa Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**21** 9:30am Golden Hammers	**22** Bus trip to Meijer Gardens Sponsored by Deborah Circle	**23**	24
25 Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Children's Message	**26** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**27** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**28** 9:30am Golden Hammers	**29**	**30**	31